

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in this application. Independent claims 1 and 22 are amended herein. Support for the amendments can be found at, for example, paragraph [0021] of the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. Applicant traverses the rejections of record and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of such in view of the remarks contained herein.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-16 and 22-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Yemeni et al. (WO 95/32411) (hereinafter “Yemeni”). Applicant points out that “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” See *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Cal.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because Yemeni fails to teach each and every claim limitation, Applicant respectfully submits that the above rejections are improper.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that the Examiner fails to provide guidance as to what portions of Yemeni specifically satisfies either of “a plurality of network events and a focal event,” or “a plurality of network objects and a focal object.” In the event the Examiner maintains the rejection, Applicant respectfully requests clarification as to which portions of Yemeni teach each limitation. It appears that the Examiner is using the same wording in Yemeni to satisfy both a focal event from the plurality of network events, and a focal object from the plurality of network objects (*see, e.g.,* Current Action page 3 ¶¶ e-f). While not conceding that Yemeni teaches any of these limitations, the cited portions could only logically teach one or the other, not both. As such, Applicant requests that the Examiner specifically point out which portions of Yemeni the Examiner believes to satisfy every limitation of Applicant’s invention. In any event, Applicant endeavors to address the rejections of record.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites “generating a matrix that illustrates distance relationships between a plurality of network events and a focal event from the plurality of

network events or that illustrates distance relationships between a plurality of network objects and a focal object from the plurality of network objects.” Independent claim 22, as amended, recites a similar limitation. As Applicant best understands, the Examiner points to Yemeni’s causality matrix as satisfying this limitation. *See* Current Action, pg. 2. However, Applicant points out that Yemeni’s causality matrix merely serves to illustrate a mapping of symptoms and problems that likely result from those symptoms. Yemeni’s causality matrix further illustrates probabilities that a given symptom is causing a given problem. *See* Yemeni, pg. 14, paragraph 2. While Yemeni’s causality matrix may illustrate a causal relationship between symptom and problem, the notion of illustrating a “distance” between the same is not discussed. In fact, the relationship between a symptom and problem is not disclosed in terms of distance at all. Moreover, Applicant notes that doing so wouldn’t even make sense in the context of Yemeni. Applicant acknowledges that Yemeni discusses a “distance measure,” *see* Yemeni at pg. 14. However, Yemeni’s distance measure is simply an arbitrary measure of the minimum allowable distance between two problems in the causality matrix. This, of course, is not the same as actually illustrating a distance relationship, as set forth in the claim. Put simply, the causal relationship illustrated in Yemeni cannot be reasonably construed as a “distance relationship,” as set forth in the claim. Therefore, Yemeni does not teach each and every limitation of claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-16, and 23-38 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 22, thus inheriting all the limitations of their respective independent claims. As noted above, Yemeni does not teach every element of independent claims 1 and 22. Consequently, Yemeni also fails to teach every element of dependent claims 2-21, and 23-42.

Claims Rejections 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 17-21 and 38-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Yemeni in view of Chambliss et al. (U.S. App. 2004/0103181). Claims 17-21 and 38-42 depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 22, thus inheriting all the limitations of their respective independent claims. As noted above, Yemeni does not teach every limitation of independent claims 1 and 22. Further, Chambliss is not relied upon to satisfy the missing

limitations, nor does it do so. Therefore, the Examiner's proposed combination of Yemeni and Chambliss fails to satisfy every limitation of dependent claims 17-21, and 38-42.

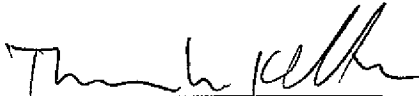
Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1078, under Order No. 10030598-01 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 28, 2007


Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).

Dated: December 28, 2007

Signature: 
Carol A. Martin